

# NOIC officer gets Copernicus Award in San Diego



Dana Banta

Lt.j.g. Sean Thompson of Navy Information Operations Command Whidbey displays his Copernicus Award.

**By CTR1  
Cris Dominguez**  
NIOC Whidbey Island

Lt.j.g. Sean Thompson was presented with the 2011 Copernicus Award on Jan. 24 at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) West Conference in San Diego.

Thompson received the award in recognition for his accomplishments as a weapons and tactics instructor, as well as for his work with the MCS-21 program. He is currently serving as the Command NATOPS Officer at Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Whidbey Island.

"I was excited to learn that I had been selected as a Copernicus Award winner," said Thompson. "Although this is an individual award, it is reflective of the work done by our Sailors at NIOC Whidbey Island on a daily basis."

Recipients are selected each year by judges in the sea services based on their

sustained superior performance in a U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard C4I/IT-related job. AFCEA and the Naval Institute present the awards at their annual Western Conference held in San Diego each year.

The AFCEA was established in 1946 as a non-profit membership association serving the military, government, industry and academia as an ethical forum for advancing professional knowledge and relationships in the fields of communications, IT, intelligence and global security.

"I'm extremely pleased that AFCEA and the U.S. Naval Institute were able to appreciate Lt.j.g. Thompson's superb talents and performance in the same manner as I do daily," said Cmdr. Joseph Pugh, NIOC Whidbey Island's commanding officer. "He embodies and delivers all that this award advocates; mission accomplishment and professional excel-

lence."

Thompson's accomplishments included the development of new tactics, techniques and procedures for the use of emerging technologies aboard the EP-3E aircraft. He was also the driving force behind the integration of new technologies, to include having the lead role in the testing of mission systems that expand the aircraft's capabilities mission effectiveness.

"It is an honor to be recognized," the California native said. "Our Sailors work hard every day and the command here is focused on giving Sailors the opportunity to excel."

Thompson enlisted in the Navy in 1996 as a Cryptologic Technician Collection and received his

commission as a Limited Duty Information Warfare Officer in 2008 while aboard the USS Sampson (DDG-102). He has served in both the surface and aviation communities.

The Copernicus Award was established in 1997 by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. C. Norman Wood, then president and chief executive officer of AFCEA International, and the late Navy Vice Adm. Art Cebrowski. It is named after the 16th century Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus.



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## MAYORS MEET MILITARY



Tony Popp

Area mayors visit NAS Whidbey Island Jan. 27 as part of their quarterly meeting to share information and solutions to challenges that local municipalities face. Oak Harbor Mayor Jim Slowik (far left) hosted the group this quarter in which they received a state of the station brief from Capt. Jay Johnston, NAS Whidbey Island commanding officer, and tours of Air Traffic Control, Search and Rescue, VAQ-129's EA-18G and EA-6B and a VP-40 P-3C. Seen in the Control Tower are Mayors Ramon Hayes, La Conner (foreground); Slowik; Dean Maxwell, Anacortes; Bud Norris, Mount Vernon; Mike McCarty, Association of Washington Cities executive director; Nancy Conard, Coupeville; and Ed Brunz, Burlington.

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## This week in NAS Whidbey Island history ...

**1951** - A P2-V with seven men aboard crashes into the ground controlled approach equipment manned by six men at Ault Field. There was no loss of life; however, the plane was a complete loss.

**1961** - The Navy announces in February that Heavy Attack Squadron 10, flying the A-3D, will form at NAS Whidbey Island on May 1, 1961.



**1974** - The status of three more air station fliers Missing in Action is changed to "presumed dead." Two of them are Lt. Cmdr. J. Forrest Tremley and Lt. Cmdr. Dain V. Scott, who were together in an A-6A from VA-196, which went down near the Chinese boarder Aug. 21, 1967. Cmdr. William A. Glasson of VAH-4 strayed over communist China April 21, 1967 in an A-3B.